



**Iowa Commission of Asian & Pacific
Islander Affairs**

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**The Iowa Department of Human
Rights brings strength to our rich
Iowa heritage.**

**We eliminate cultural and economic
barriers, and work to
empower Iowans.**

We are the voice for many.

Iowa Department of Human Rights
WE GROW OPPORTUNITY.

Iowa Commission of
**Asian & Pacific Islander
Affairs**



**2015
Policy
Agenda**

The **Iowa Commission of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs** members are appointed by the Governor and are responsible for advising the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and General Assembly on issues confronting Asian and Pacific Islanders in the state. The Commission's overall mission is to:

- Study the opportunities for and changing needs of the Asian and Pacific Islander people in Iowa
- Serve as a liaison for the public, sharing information and gathering constituency input
- Recommend the adoption of rules for the Commission and the Department of Human Rights; recommend legislative and executive action to the Governor and General Assembly
- Establish advisory committees, work groups and other coalitions as appropriate

For 2015, the Commission is focused on policy initiatives in the areas of:

- **Community & Civic Engagement**
- **Language Access**
- **Education**
- **Healthcare**

Iowa Commission of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs



2015 Policy Initiatives

Public & Civic Engagement

As a relatively new Commission, it is important to increase the visibility of our initiatives and our members with elected representatives. To best serve our community, we strive to be an valued voice for our community, and an information hub to facilitate access to government and non-governmental programming and organizations.

Education & Language Access

To enhance educational achievement and community involvement, the Commission seeks to:

- Resolve language access issues
- Increase the number of bi-lingual teachers in schools
- Enhance English Language Learning opportunities for refugees
- Ensure the availability of qualified interpreters for healthcare services

Asians & Pacific Islanders in Iowa

Iowa Facts

76,000 Iowa residents identify themselves as being Asian, Pacific Islander or of mixed Asian heritage, making up 2.3% of Iowa's population.

Chinese is the most common language spoken at home, followed by Vietnamese

Iowa's Asian and Pacific Islander population is primarily comprised of members of the following communities:

Asian Indian	Malaysian
Bangladeshi	Mongolian
Burmese	Nepalese
Chinese	Pakistani
Filipino	Tai Dam
Hmong	Taiwanese
Japanese	Thai
Korean	Vietnamese
Laotian	

